Relief to pensioners of Posts and Telegraph drawing their pension from the post offices.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) & (b) above.

(d) In order to further speed up the payment of Dearness Relief, the Pension Branch of the Circle Offices have been advised to act directly on the Government Orders in respect of Dearness Relief etc. supplied by Government to them through POST, FAX, E-MAIL or by accessing from the website of the pension paying authorities without waiting for receipt of orders from the nodal Ministry/Department. Reserve Bank of India has also advised the agency banks to act on the copies of Government orders in respect of Dearness Relief supplied by Government to them through POST, FAX, E-MAIL or by accessing from the website of the pension paying authorities without waiting for receipt of orders from RBI in respect of those pensioners drawing their pension from banks.

Discrepancies in the pay scales of employees of BSNL, Madhya Pradesh

†1654. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pay of junior employees is more than the pay of senior employees due to discrepancies in the pay scales of senior and junior employees of BSNL in Madhya Pradesh in the countext of BSNL's revised scale of clerks and operators at par with JAO & JE unrevised pay scale Rs. 6500/-;

(b) if so, the number of such senior employees whose pay is comparatively less than the pay of junior employees; the details thereof; State-wise; and

(c) the details of steps taken to remove these discrepancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. Clerks and Operators belong to non-executive category in BSNL

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

whereas JAO and JE (JTO in BSNL) belong to executive category. So there does not exist any anomaly in these two different categories of employees.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Tension to IT sector employees

1655. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the problems like depression, tension, stress etc. of the employees of IT sector;

(b) the steps taken by Government to help employees come out of such situations; and

(c) whether Government would bring a legislation with mandatory provision of providing corporate healthcare, counseling etc?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMED): (a) to (c) As per NASSCOM (National Association of Software and Service Companies), no such report/complaint have been received.

As per Ministry of Labour, IT and ITES (IT Enable Services) are covered under existing labour laws. With regards to the Information Technology sector, the State Government are the "Appropriate Governments" under most of the labour laws and are legally vested with the powers to deal with the violation of the labour laws including the welfare measures for the employee in IT sector. Central Labour Legislations like Industrial Dispute Act. 1947, — the Employees, State Insurance Act, 1948, Employees' Provident Fund & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, Maternity Benefit Act, 1962, Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act., 1970 etc. also apply to them subject to fulfillment of criteria specified in the respective Acts.

Broadband scheme

1656. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state: